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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q76471

Toshiaki KURIYAMA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/614,193

Group Art Unit: 1713

Confirmation No.: 6287

Examiner: LIPMAN, Bernard

Filed: July 07, 2003

For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING N-VINYL COMPOUND POLYMER

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement, dated October 3, 2005, applicants elect Group I, claims 6-9, 11 and 12 for examination. This election is made with traverse.

Applicants first note that claim 9 is included by the Examiner in both Group I and II. Applicants believe the Examiner has included claim 9 in Group II by mistake, since claim 9 does not recite an acid and a base, which is the definition of Group II that has been provided by the Examiner. Applicants request that the Examiner clarify the record by indicating that claim 9 is not included in Group II.

Further, the embodiment of addition of an organic acid as claimed in dependent claim 10 (Group II invention) is a pre-treatment of a starting material used in the invention of Group I.

Specifically, an organic acid is added to the N-vinyl compound polymer used as a starting material in the Group I invention to diminish an amount of residual N-vinyl compounds in the polymer. Thus, the Group I invention is directed to the embodiment wherein an organic base is added to the N-vinyl compound polymer used as a starting material, and the Group II invention is directed to the embodiment wherein an organic acid is added to the N-vinyl compound polymer used as a starting material in the Group I invention prior to addition of the organic base.

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In other words, the Group II invention is the embodiment that the starting material used in the Group I invention is subjected to a specific pre-treatment.

In view of the above, applicants believe that the Group I invention and Group II invention are not different and distinct inventions for purposes of restriction, especially since claim 10 is a dependent claim. Upon allowance of the claims of the invention of Group I, claim 10 would be allowable. See the MPEP at §806.05(c) II.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

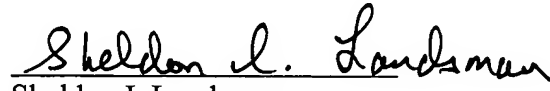
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Date: November 3, 2005


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